



Neighborhood Art



Joan Baron & Kristine Kollasch

Peace in Many Languages, 2014

Concrete irrigation standpipe bases covered with ceramic mosaic tile, river rocks, and steel; wood

Location: Jen Tilly Terrace
Neighborhood

Spence Avenue & Terrace Road

Artist Website: www.JoanBaron.com
www.ArtandEnvironments.com

Photo: Richard Mack

Description: Sited at the intersection of Spence Avenue and Terrace Road, two standpipes provide a fresh and distinctive identity to the Jen Tilly Terrace Neighborhood. The artists were resourceful in repurposing their inventory of steel, tile, and polished stones to create a unique and attractive tactile sculptural design. They conducted workshops for residents of all ages, as well as students from the ceramics program at New School for the Arts, to create handmade round ceramic tiles (mandalas) that deliver the theme “Peace in Many Languages”. The variety of blue tones suggests the water the standpipes deliver to the neighborhood. In addition, the artists renewed the landscape area around the standpipes to accommodate those waiting for the Orbit bus.

Artist biography: Baron is an environmental artist, educator and innovative community leader. As the owner of Baron Studio she has earned a reputation for cutting edge design and fabrication solutions for a variety of public art projects installed in parks, hospitals, gardens and schools, as well as site specific installations. Baron is well known for her ability to engage the community in her public art projects through her skills as a facilitator and her knowledge of local materials. Baron’s original designs in tile, detailed mosaic installations, rammed earth, ceramics and sculptural steel deliver a multi-dimensional aesthetic that enhances every space she enters. Baron was honored with an eight-page retrospective article in *Phoenix Home & Garden* magazine and has received several Valley Forward Environmental Excellence Awards for Art in Public Places.

Kollasch’s artworks are created with rich layers of color, often laden with objects and text that may portray hidden meaning or simply help state a less obvious significance in the color or composition of the piece. The multitude of layers draws the viewer in beyond the first impression. She has been defined as a painter, a sculptor or a ceramist, but no single word can describe the multi-faceted artist that flourishes inside. Her portfolio reveals this eclectic blend of styles, techniques and mediums purposefully chosen to best express the art at hand. Kollasch is a thriving artist producing fine art and murals and enjoys working collaboratively on public art projects that involve the community. In addition, she gives back to the community through her work with Free Arts of Arizona, a local non-profit organization.

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